

# Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update



*Dells of the Eau Claire, by Jessica Tomaszewski*

## January 2023

YCC delegates and mentors,

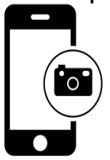
The start of January means it is time to make plans, update calendars and set goals for the year ahead. The YCC Committee has planned a variety of group activities throughout 2023. These opportunities are an incredible way to come together to learn about natural resource management, connect with conservation professionals, develop hunting and fishing skills, and create personal connections. Please make sure to add these dates (found on the last page) to your calendar.

In addition to group YCC activities, there are countless other opportunities listed and shared in emails and newsletters. These activities are often self-directed, and may require some extra effort, but they are worth it for additional knowledge gained and networks created.

I hope your goals and plans for the new year include participating in **more** YCC activities!

Make it a great year! ~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

We want to feature YCC delegates in our monthly newsletters. Email or text outdoor pictures of yourself to: [kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov) or 715.299.0925



Visit the [WCC Facebook site](#) to see what's new



## Outdoor Adventures



Liv, YCC alumni enjoys ice fishing and already has several entries in the YCC virtual fishing contest!



Ari, YCC delegate from Jackson County caught this northern pike while fishing with friends.



Trevor, YCC alumni is leading the YCC virtual fishing contest in all categories. Great job! Although, I think this calls for a little more friendly competition...



### Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

YCC Oversight Committee Chair: Trent Tonn (262) 534-1962 / [ttonn@basd.k12.wi.us](mailto:ttonn@basd.k12.wi.us)

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# Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress

## YCC Event: Ice Fishing on Shawano Lake, January 21 & 22, 2023

Join YCC delegates and mentors for the free fishing weekend in Wisconsin. Enjoy time on the ice while learning new techniques. We encourage you to bring a friend or relative who is new to fishing or hasn't gone fishing in years. Fishing licenses are not required for this weekend, but all fishing regulations remain in effect, including seasons, bag limits and length limits.



## TIMELINE

### Saturday, January 21st

- 9:15\*** Meet at Shawano Lake (exact location will be determined) \*Please plan for weather and aim to arrive on time.
- 9:30** Set up on the ice. A DNR Conservation Warden will meet with our group to talk about regulations and ice safety.
- 12:00** Lunch and discussion about the fish population of Shawano Lake. We will provide hot dogs to grill on the ice. Please bring your own snacks and additional food and drinks that you would like throughout the day.
- 4:00** Wrap up fishing and pack up gear.
- 4:30** (optional) Head over to [Camp Tekakwitha](#) for a fish dinner and potluck.
- 5:00** Group fish cleaning. Work together to help clean fish for dinner. Learn about cooking techniques and fish preparation.
- 6:00** Potluck group dinner in lodge. Please bring a dish to pass.
- 7:00** Group time in lodge, option to fish on Loon Lake, additional activities to be announced.
- Overnight** (optional). Camp Tekakwitha has two lodges with open concept rooms and bunkbeds. Bathrooms and showers are in each lodge. Lodges will be separated by gender. The cost to stay at the camp is \$25/person (please bring cash or check with you).

### Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Morning – breakfast at lodge.  
Group fishing on Loon Lake or Shawano Lake.  
Depart early to late afternoon.

## WHAT TO BRING:

- WARM clothes and boots!**  
You will have a more pleasant and successful day if you are prepared for the weather. We will have some fishing shelters to use.
- Ice fishing equipment (poles, bait, bait bucket, lures, ice scoop, fillet knives, chair)**  
If you are new to ice fishing, don't worry we will provide training and all equipment. Live bait will also be provided.
- A bottle of water for the day and snacks/additional food**  
(hot dogs, and beverages will be provided for lunch)
- A backpack or bag**  
Depending on ice conditions, we may walk a short distance out onto the ice or be shuttled by snowmobile. A backpack will be helpful to carry food, water, and fishing gear.
- Emergency contacts / activity consent form**  
Forms will be emailed to registered participants. Email /text it to Kyle prior to event or bring with you.
- Overnight gear**  
If you are spending the night at Camp Tekakwitha, you will need to bring \$25 for lodging, a change of clothes, bedding for a twin size bed, towel, and personal toiletries.

## Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine - Winter 2022

The magazine marks the 40th anniversary of the DNR's Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) program by highlighting NHC successes over the years and featuring field notes from DNR biologists with details on the program's ongoing critical work.

The issue is also packed with ways to help you find your winter adventure and embrace the outdoors in colder months, including eight state parks to explore this season and half-hour hikes to revive your spirits.

For those ready for a bigger adventure, learn all the tips, tricks and gear needed for successful winter camping. Warm up with delicious comfort food recipes for around the campfire.

Learn about the science of snowfall and seasonal coping strategies of people and wildlife in "How Winter Works." And read "Cut the Salt, Wisconsin" for information on how to help the environment by using less road salt for ice and snow this winter.



[Wisconsin Natural Resources Winter 2022.](#)

## Internship Opportunities

[The State of Wisconsin Student Diversity Internship Program \(SWSDIP\)](#) offers paid internship opportunities for students interested in exploring different careers and gaining valuable experience. This program is designed to advance career goals and skills while providing an understanding of various agencies of state government.

Students are encouraged to apply, especially students of color, students with disabilities, student veterans, women and non-traditional students. The goal is for the Diversity Interns to envision and pursue a future career with the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Explore the open positions on the [DNR's website](#). The DNR offers summer [internships](#) for current college students and those entering college in the upcoming year. These jobs are in the fields of: wildlife management, safety, education, air management, policy and more.

Interested students must submit their completed application(s) through Wisc.Jobs by February 13, 2023.

## Virtual Ice Fishing Contest

The YCC committee and Friends Into Spooner Hatchery (FISH) invite all YCC delegates to join in an ice fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app. Any kind or size of fish, caught anywhere could be recognized. Even if you catch nothing at all you can follow the leader boards to see how the rest of the group is doing. **This contest runs until March 5th. You can sign up anytime during the contest period.**

### Categories:

Largest Northern Pike, Largest Walleye, Mixed Bag, Stringer of 5 Northern Pike, Stringer of 5 panfish, Wild Card Any Other Fish

Download the FishDonkey App on your phone or smart device. (You do not need cell reception to record fish – they can be recorded on the app and uploaded when you have wifi or cell reception). Search for the contest: "YCC Ice" <https://tournament.fishdonkey.com/#/tournament/10779/details>

- Prizes (still to be determined) will be given to the top positions of each leaderboard category.
- All fish entered in the tournament will be photographed, measured, and recorded with the FishDonkey app. Each entry must include a picture of the fish on a measuring board or with measuring tape AND a selfie with the fish. All entries must be photographed through the camera setting in the FishDonkey app. (please read rules for additional details related to measuring your fish).
- **Please read through all rules and information on the contest page.**
- Categories and leaderboards will update throughout the contest so check the leaderboards through your app to follow the tournament progress.
- Awards are presented on the basis of length as determined through the mobile app and verified by tournament judges. The categories, species, and official rules can be found in the FishDonkey app.
- A big thanks to Larry Damman for organizing the YCC contest and to the Friends into Spooner Hatchery for sponsoring the tournament.

# YCC INDIVIDUAL FOCUS OPPORTUNITY

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE!

We would like to help you create an individual focus opportunity based around your interests, skills, and goals.

Now is the time to start thinking about your plan and goals for this year. Each YCC delegate is encouraged to choose a conservation topic, outdoor skill, or leadership project they would like to focus on.

Your focus opportunity can be as big or small as you want. It can span one day or several months.

Watch your email for additional information outlining the focus opportunity process and timeline.

Each month the newsletter will feature a project idea for one of the focus opportunity categories:

- Individual Study
- Leadership
- Skill Building
- Career Exploration

Read more about an idea for a skill building & individual study project.



## PROJECT IDEA! - SKILL BUILDING & INDIVIDUAL STUDY

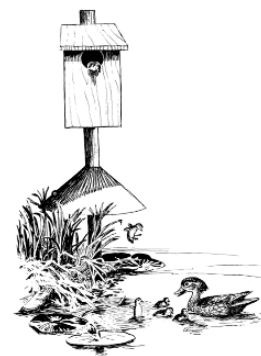


Construct a wood duck box from a free kit (available for all YCC delegates) and install it in suitable habitat. Observe your wood duck box through the season and learn more about wood duck biology.

Details:

Contribute to wood duck conservation by building and installing nesting boxes. Each YCC delegate is invited to sign up to receive 1 free wood duck box kit. Additional kits are available for \$15/each. Kits include all pre-cut wooden pieces of the duck box. They need to be assembled with a drill, and additional materials will be necessary to install boxes outdoors, in suitable habitat. Check your email for information and a sign up link. *Jeff Hintz, WCC delegate has obtained these kits from Delta Waterfowl volunteer, Eric Johnson.*

Work with your mentor to find a location to install your box, and reach out to conservation programs like [Delta Waterfowl](#), [Wisconsin Waterfowl Association](#), and [Ducks Unlimited](#) to learn more about local and nationwide waterfowl research and habitat projects.



## SHARE YOUR VOICE - SUBMIT A CITIZEN RESOLUTION

An important part of serving as a YCC delegate is learning about the process by which Wisconsin's natural resource policy is determined. Participating in the [Wisconsin Spring Hearings](#) is one avenue for citizens to share their voice.

Writing and submitting a citizen resolution is another opportunity to act as a conservation advocate.

Do you have any new ideas related to conservation you would like to see be implemented in Wisconsin, or any current regulations that you feel should be modified?

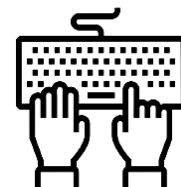
Authoring a citizen resolution is your chance to bring up a new idea or concern. Please talk with your mentor and other WCC delegates in your county about guidance for drafting a resolution. The process of submitting a resolution is fairly straightforward, however, it is important to think through your concern, and include all necessary criteria for submitting a resolution (see details on right).

Learn about resolutions written in 2022: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>

**Additional information will follow with specific details on how to submit resolutions for 2023.**

### What are the criteria for a resolution to be accepted?

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.
7. Resolutions must be 2000 characters or less.
8. The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number are required with the resolution. Email address is helpful, but not required.
9. An individual may introduce no more than two resolutions.



# YCC Upcoming Opportunities

## JANUARY

- 11th - YCC virtual gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn about a career as a Conservation Warden.
- 21st-22nd - YCC ice fishing event, Shawano Lake.
- 21st-22nd - Free fishing weekend in Wisconsin.

## FEBRUARY

- 8h - YCC virtual gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn about how airplane pilots assist with natural resource management in Wisconsin.

## MARCH

- March 4, YCC Oversight Committee meeting.
- March 8, YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30. Learn about the WI Wildlife Federation's Conservation Leadership Corps program.

## SAVE THE DATE

- May 11-13, WCC Convention, Oshkosh.
- June 22, YCC career day field trip.
- August 10-13, YCC Summer Program.
- August 26, Volunteer at the Youth Zone - Waterfowl Hunter's Expo, Oshkosh.
- October (date TBA), YCC Oversight Committee meeting. YCC Learn to Hunt program.

## ONGOING

- [Winter candlelight events](#) will be taking place on state properties in January and February. These free-to-low cost events typically begin around sunset and offer a variety of ways to enjoy the winter scenery after dark, including hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Many will include activities such as bonfires, hot chocolate, cider and other refreshments available for sale or by donation, and some will have open warming shelters.
- Participate in a variety of events and activities across the state. State parks and forests feature public programming (hikes, presentations, nature crafts, children's programs, outdoor explorations, and more. Check for activities near you: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events>
- DNR State Park System volunteer information: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/volunteer>
- DNR Statewide opportunity: volunteer to help with conservation workdays at State Natural Areas. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/volunteer.html>

## YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - Wednesday, January 11th, 7:30-8:30pm



DNR Conservation Warden, Meghan Jensen will speak to the YCC. She will discuss the general job duties, unique challenges of the job, requirements to become a Conservation Warden, and share personal experiences on the job.

Watch your email for details and a zoom link.

## TREE FELLING COURSE AT UW-STEVENS POINT



In this [course](#), high schoolers will join UW-Stevens Point forestry undergraduate students and industry professionals in a 3-day, field-intensive chainsaw training. As part of this course, you will work directly with more than 10 industry professionals to gain the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to safely fell a tree. Through guided field training you will learn how to safely cut down, delimb, and buck a tree while earning an industry-recognized certificate and college credit. Specifically, you will learn directional felling and chainsaw safety while earning [1 credit in FOR 396 from UWSP](#) and Tree Felling certification from UWSP and Husqvarna. All participants will receive a complimentary set of personal protective equipment, donated by Husqvarna, including chainsaw chaps, hard hat with hearing protection, and safety glasses. All costs are covered by program sponsors.

**Who can apply?** High school junior and senior students.

Application Deadline: February 3, 2023

**When:** March 24-26, 2023, Treehaven, Tomahawk, Wis.\*

*\*Housing will not be available. All participating students will be responsible for their own housing and transportation to and from Treehaven.*

## CITIZEN SCIENCE OPPORTUNITY



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is asking the public to [report any observations of mudpuppies](#) they may accidentally catch while fishing this winter. Data collected from these sightings will help determine the distribution and range of the species statewide.

[Mudpuppies](#) are Wisconsin's only fully aquatic salamander and can be found in streams, rivers, ponds and lakes year-round. The DNR encourages those who catch a mudpuppy while fishing to snap a picture of it, then gently remove the fishing hook and release it back into the water. Try not to touch the mudpuppy too much because amphibians have sensitive, permeable skin. [Learn more.](#)